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By *Doreen Davis*

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Acct. No. 08-1634.

Attorney Docket No.: SAIC 18.550

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : **Franco PRETI, et al.**
Serial No. : **Concurrently Herewith**
Filed : **Concurrently Herewith**
Title : **Reaction Chamber for an Epitaxial Reactor**

April 12, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Prior to the issuance of an Office Action, please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 4, 6, 7 and 11 as follows:

4. Reaction chamber for an epitaxial reactor, according to Claim 2, characterized in that the cap (52) is closed at the top by a flange (86) terminating in a dome-piece (88) communicating with a sleeve (96) for connection to an external source of gas to be used in the same reaction chamber, which dome-piece is provided with a bottom (100) defining at least one circular slit for ensuring a rigorously uniform distribution of gas to an annular chamber (104) for supplying the plurality of pipes (106a-f) emerging from the distributor (54) inside the belljar (14).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No 08-1634. EXCEPT THE ISSUE FEE.